(11) EP 1 217 074 A1

(12)

## **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication: 26.06.2002 Bulletin 2002/26

(51) Int CI.7: **C12N 15/90**, C12N 15/82, C12N 15/81

(21) Application number: 00204693.6

(22) Date of filing: 22.12.2000

(84) Designated Contracting States:

AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE TR Designated Extension States:

AL LT LV MK RO SI

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### Remarks:

The sequence listing, which is published as annex to the application documents, was filed after the date of filing. The applicant has declared that it does not include matter which goes beyond the content of the application as filed.

## (54) Nucleic acid integration in eukaryotes

(57) The invention relate to the field of molecular biology and cell biology. It particularly relates to methods to direct integration of a nucleic acid of interest towards homologous recombination and uses thereof. The present invention discloses factors involved in integration of a nucleic acid by illegitimate recombination which provides a method to direct integration of a nucleic acid of interest to a pre-determined site, whereby said nucleic acid has homology at or around the said pre-deter-

mined site, in an eukaryote with a preference for non-homologous recombination comprising steering an integration pathway towards homologous recombination. Furthermore, the invention provides a method to direct integration of a nucleic acid of interest to a sub-telomeric and/or telomeric region in an eukaryote with a preference for non-homologous recombination.

### Description

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[0001] The invention relates to the field of molecular biology and cell biology. It particularly relates to methods to direct integration towards homologous recombination and uses thereof. Several methods are known to transfer nucleic acids to, in particular, eukaryotic cells. In some methods the nucleic acid of interest is transferred to the cytoplasm of the cell, in some the nucleic acid of interest is integrated into the genome of the host. Many different vehicles for transfer of the nucleic acid are known. For different kinds of cells, different systems can be used, although many systems are more widely applicable than just a certain kind of cells. In plants, e.g., a system based on *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* is often applied. This system is one of the systems that can be used according to the invention.

[0002] The soil bacterium Agrobacterium tumefaciens is able to transfer part of its tumor-inducing (Ti) plasmid, the transferred (T-) DNA, to plant cells. This results in crown gall tumor formation on plants due to expression of onc-genes, which are present on the T-DNA. Virulence (vir) genes, located elsewhere on the Ti-plasmid, mediate T-DNA transfer to the plant cell. Some Vir proteins accompany the T-DNA during its transfer to the plant cell to protect the T-DNA and to mediate its transfer to the plant nucleus. Once in the plant nucleus, the T-DNA is integrated at a random position into the plant genome (reviewed by Hooykaas and Beijersbergen 1994, Hansen and Chilton 1999). Removal of the onc-genes from the T-DNA does not inactivate T-DNA transfer. T-DNA, disarmed in this way, is now the preferred vector for the genetic modification of plants.

[0003] Although much is known about the transformation process, not much is known about the process by which the T-DNA is integrated into the plant genome. It is likely that plant enzymes mediate this step of the transformation process (Bundock et al. 1995). The integration pattern of T-DNA in transformed plants has been extensively studied (Matsumoto et al. 1990, Gheysen et al. 1991, Mayerhofer et al. 1991). The results indicated that T-DNA integrates via illegitimate recombination (IR) (also called non-homologous recombination, both terms may be used interchangeable herein), a process which can join two DNA molecules that share little or no homology (here the T-DNA and plant target DNA). Even T-DNA molecules in which a large segment of homologous plant DNA was present, integrated mainly by IR and only with very low frequency (1:104-105) by homologous recombination (HR) (Offringa et al. 1990).

[0004] Recently, it was shown that *Agrobacterium* is not only able to transfer its T-DNA to plant cells, but also to other eukaryotes, including the yeast *S,cerevisiae* (Bundock et al. 1995) and a wide variety of filamentous fungi (deGroot et al. 1998). In *S.cerevisiae*, T-DNA carrying homology with the yeast genome integrates via HR (Bundock et al. 1995). However, T-DNA lacking any homology with the *S.cerevisiae* genome becomes integrated at random positions in the genome by the same IR process as is used in plants (Bundock and Hooykaas 1996). Apparently, eukaryotic cells have at least two separate pathways (one via homologous and one via non-homologous recombination) through which nucleic acids (in particular of course DNA), can be integrated into the host genome. The site of integration into a host cell genome is important with respect to the likelihood of transcription and/or expression of the integrated nucleic acid. The present invention provides methods and means to direct nucleic acid integration to a predetermined site through steering integration towards the homologous recombination pathway. The present invention arrives at such steering either by enhancing the HR pathway, or by inhibiting (meaning reducing) the IR pathway.

[0005] Host factors involved in the integration of nucleic acid by IR have so far not been identified. The present invention discloses such factors which enables the design of methods for their (temporary) inhibition, so that integration of nucleic acid by IR is prevented, shifting the integration process towards HR and facilitating the isolation of a host cell with nucleic acid integrated by HR at a predetermined site. This is extremely important, since there is no method available yet for easy and precise genetic modification of a host cell using HR (gene targeting). Of course the actual site of integration is then determined by homology of the nucleic acid of interest with said site.

[0006] In a first embodiment the invention provides a method to direct nucleic acid integration of a nucleic acid of interest to a pre-determined site, whereby said nucleic acid has homology at or around the said pre-determined site, in an eukaryote with a preference for non-homologous recombination comprising steering an integration pathway towards homologous recombination. Integration is a complex process wherein a nucleic acid sequence becomes part of the genetic material of a host cell. One step in the process of nucleic acid integration is recombination; via recombination nucleic acid sequences are exchanged and the introduced nucleic acid becomes part of the genetic material of a host cell. In principle two different ways of recombination are possible: homologous and illegitimate or non-homologous recombination. Most (higher) eukaryotes do not or at least not significantly practise homologous recombination although the essential proteins to accomplish such a process are available. One reason for this phenomenon is that frequent use of homologous recombination in (higher) eukaryotes could lead to undesirable chromosomal rearrangements due to the presence of repetitive nucleic acid sequences. To accomplish homologous recombination via a method according to the invention, it is important to provide a nucleic acid which has homology with a pre-determined site. It is clear to a person skilled in the art that the percentage of homology and the length of (a) homologous region(s) play an important role in the process of homologous recombination. The percentage of homology is preferably close to 100%. A person skilled in the art is aware of the fact that lower percentage of homology are also used in the field of homologous recombination, but dependent on, for example, the regions of homology and their overall distribution, lead

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to a lower efficiency of homologous recombination but are still useful and therefore included in the present invention. Furthermore, the length of a (nearly) homologous region is approximately 3 kb which is sufficient to direct homologous recombination. At least one homologous region is necessary for recombination but more preferably 2 homologous regions flanking the nucleic acid of interest are used for targeted integration. The researcher skilled in the art knows how to select the proper percentage of homology, the length of homology and the amount of homologous regions. By providing such a homology a nucleic acid is integrated at every desired position within the genetic material of a host cell. It is clear to a person skilled in the art that the invention as disclosed herein is used to direct any nucleic acid (preferably DNA) to any pre-determined site as long as the length of homology and percentage of homology are high enough to provide homologous recombination. A pre-determined site is herein defined as a site within the genetic material contained by a host cell to which a nucleic acid with homology to this same site is integrated with a method according to the invention. It was not until the present invention that a nucleic acid is integrated at every desired position and therefore a method according to the invention is applied, for example, to affect the gene function in various ways, not only for complete inactivation but also to mediate changes in the expression level or in the regulation of expression, changes in protein activity or the subcellular targeting of an encoded protein. Complete inactivation, which can usually not be accomplished by existing methods such as antisense technology or RNAi technology (Zrenner et al, 1993), is useful for instance for the inactivation of genes controlling undesired side branches of metabolic pathways, for instance to increase the quality of bulk products such as starch, or to increase the production of specific secondary metabolites or to inhibit formation of unwanted metabolites. Also to inactivate genes controlling senescence in fruits and flowers or that determine flower pigments. Replacement of existing regulatory sequences by alternative regulatory sequences is used to alter expression of in situ modified genes to meet requirements, (e.g. expression in response to particular physical conditions such as light, drought or pathogen infection, or in response to chemical inducers), or depending on the developmental state (e.g. in a storage organ, or in fruits or seeds) or on tissue or cell types. Also a method according to the invention is used to effectuate predictable expression of transgenes encoding novel products, for example by replacing existing coding sequences of genes giving a desired expression profile by those for a desired novel product. For example to produce proteins of medicinal or industrial value in the seeds of plants the coding sequence of a strongly expressed storage protein may be replaced by that of the desired protein. As another example existing coding sequences are modified so that the protein encoded has optimized characteristics for instance to make a plant herbicide tolerant, to produce storage proteins with enhanced nutritional value, or to target a protein of interest to an organelle or to secrete it to the extracellular space. As yet another example eukaryotic cells (including yeast, \* fungi, plant and mammalian cells) are provided with a gene encoding a protein of interest integrated into the genome at a site which ensures high expression levels. As another example the nucleic acid of interest can be part of a gene delivery vehicle to deliver a gene of interest to a eukaryotic cell in vitro or in vivo. In this way a defect p53 can be replaced by an intact p53. In this way a tumoricidal gene can be delivered to a pre-determined site present only in e. g. proliferating cells, or present only in tumor cells, e.g. to the site where a tumor antigen is expressed from. Gene delivery vehicles are well known in the art and include adenoviral vehicles, retroviral vehicles, non-viral vehicles such as liposomes, etc. As another example the invention is used to produce transgenic organisms. Knock-out transgenics are already produced by homologous recombination methods. The present invention improves the efficiency of such methods. Also transgenics with desired properties are made.

[0007] In another embodiment the invention provides a method to direct nucleic acid integration to a pre-determined site, whereby said nucleic acid has homology at or around the said pre-determined site, in an eukaryote with a preference for non-homologous recombination comprising steering an integration pathway towards homologous recombination by providing a mutant of a component involved in non-homologous recombination. Methods to identify components involved in non-homologous recombination are outlined in the present description wherein S.cerevisiae was used as a model system. To this end several yeast derivatives defective for genes known to be involved in various recombination processes were constructed and the effect of the mutations on T-DNA integration by either HR or IR was tested. The results as disclosed herein show that the proteins encoded by YKU70, RAD50, MRE11, XRS2, LIG4 and SIR4 play an essential role in DNA integration by IR but not by HR. It is clear to a person skilled in the art that different mutants of a component involved in non-homologous recombination exist. Examples are deletion mutants, knock-out (for example via insertion) mutants or point mutants. Irrespective of the kind of mutant it is important that a component involved in non-homologous recombination is no longer capable or at least significantly less capable to perform it's function in the process of non-homologous recombination. As disclosed herein disruption of YKU70, RAD50, MRE11, XRS2, LIG4 and SIR4 did not affect the frequency of DNA integration by HR, showing that these genes are not involved in DNA integration by HR, but only in DNA integration by IR. In another embodiment the invention provides a method to direct integration of a nucleic acid of interest to a subtelomeric and/or telomeric region in an eukaryote with a preference for non-homologous recombination by providing a mutant of a component involved in non-homologous recombination. A telomeric region is defined herein as a region containing repetitive sequences which is located at the end of a chromosome. Sub-telomeric region is herein defined as a region flanking the telomeric region. As an example is disclosed herein that in yeast strains carrying disruptions of RAD50, MRE11 or XRS2 the distribution of

integrated DNA copies is altered when compared to wildtype. DNA becomes preferentially integrated in telomeres or subtelomeric regions in the *rad50*, *mre11* and *xrs2* mutants. A great advantage of integration of DNA copies in telomeres or subtelomeric regions instead of integration elsewhere in the genomic material is that there is no danger for host genes being mutated or inactivated by a DNA insertion. When in plants deficient for *RAD50*, *MRE11* or *XRS2* DNA copies also integrate into telomeres or telomeric regions, such plants are used for telomeric targeting of T-DNA in transformation experiments to prevent additional insertion mutations from random T-DNA integration into the plant genome.

[0008] In yet another embodiment the invention provides a method to direct nucleic acid integration to a pre-determined site, whereby said nucleic acid has homology at or around the said pre-determined site, in an eukaryote with a preference for non-homologous recombination comprising steering an integration pathway towards homologous recombination by partially or more preferably completely inhibiting a component involved in non-homologous recombination. Partial or complete inhibition of a component involved in non-homologous recombination is obtained by different methods, for example by an antibody directed against such a component or a chemical inhibitor or a protein inhibitor or peptide inhibitor or an antisense molecule or an RNAi molecule. Irrespective of the kind of (partial or more preferably complete) inhibition it is important that a component involved in non-homologous recombination is no longer capable or at least significantly less capable to perform it's function in the process of non-homologous recombination. In yet another embodiment the invention provides a method to direct integration of a nucleic acid of interest to a sub-telomeric and/or telomeric region in an eukaryote with a preference for non-homologous recombination by partially or more preferably completely inhibiting a component involved in non-homologous recombination.

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[0009] In a preferred embodiment the invention provides a method to direct nucleic acid integration to a pre-determined site or to a sub-telomeric and/or telomeric region by providing a mutant of a component involved in non-homologous recombination or by partially or more preferably completely inhibiting a component involved in non-homologous recombination wherein said component comprises ku70, rad50, mre11, xrs2, lig4 or sir4. Components involved in non-homologous recombination are identified as outlined in the present description. The nomenclature for genes as used above is specific for yeast. Because the nomenclature of genes differs between organisms a functional equivalent or a functional homologue (see for example figure 2 to 5) and/or a functional fragment thereof, all defined herein as being capable of performing (in function, not in amount) at least one function of the yeast genes ku70, rad50, mre11, xrs2, lig4 or sir4 are also included in the present invention. A mutant of a component directly associating with a component involved in non-homologous recombination or (partial or complete) inhibition of a component directly associating with a component involved in non-homologous recombination is, for example, identified in a yeast two hybrid screening. An example of a component directly associating with a component involved in non-homologous recombination is KU80, which forms a complex with KU70. In a more preferred embodiment the invention provides a method to direct nucleic acid integration in yeast, fungus, plant or animal.

[0010] In another embodiment the invention provides a method to direct nucleic acid integration to a pre-determined site, whereby said nucleic acid has homology at or around the said pre-determined site, in an eukaryote with a preference for non-homologous recombination comprising steering an integration pathway towards homologous recombination by transiently (partially or more preferably completely) inhibiting integration via non-homologous recombination. In yet another embodiment the invention provides a method to direct integration of a nucleic acid of interest to a subtelomeric and/or telomeric region in an eukaryote with a preference for non-homologous recombination by transiently (partially or more preferably completely) inhibiting integration via non-homologous recombination. In a more preferred embodiment such a method is used for yeast, plant or fungus and the transient (partial or more preferable complete) inhibition is provided by an Agrobacterium Vir-fusion protein capable of (partially or more preferably completely) inhibiting a component involved in non-homologous recombination or capable of (partially or more preferably completely) inhibiting a functional equivalent or homologue thereof or capable of (partially or more preferably completely) inhibiting a component directly associating with a component involved in non-homologous recombination. In a even more preferred embodiment such a Agrobacterium Vir fusion protein comprises VirF or VirE2. It was shown that the Agrobacterium VirF and VirE2 proteins are directly transferred from Agrobacterium to plant cells during plant transformation (Vergunst et al. 2000). To, for example, accomplish T-DNA integration by HR in plants, VirF fusion proteins containing for example a peptide inhibitor of IR in plant cells are introduced concomitantly with the targeting T-DNA. It has been reported that the C-terminal part (approximately 40 amino acids) of VirF or VirE2 is sufficient to accomplish transfer of T-DNA. A functional fragment and/or a functional equivalent of VirF or VirE is therefore also included in the present invention. In an even more preferred embodiment a component involved in non-homologous recombination comprises ku70, rad50, mre11, xrs2, lig4 or sir4 or functional equivalents or homologous thereof or associating components. The nomenclature for genes as used above is specific for yeast. Because the nomenclature of genes differs between organisms a functional equivalent or a functional homologue (see for example figure 2 to 5) and/or a functional fragment thereof, all defined herein as being capable of performing (in function, not in amount) at least one function of the yeast genes ku70, rad50, mre11, xrs2, lig4 or sir4 are also included in the present invention. By transiently (partially or more

preferably completely) inhibiting a component involved in non-homologous recombination a nucleic acid is integrated at any position without permanently modifying a component involved in non-homologous recombination and preventing unwanted side effects caused by the permanent presence of such a modified component involved in non-homologous recombination.

[0011] Methods according to the present invention, as extensively discussed above, are used in a wide variety of applications. One embodiment of the present invention is the replacement of an active gene by an inactive gene according to a method of the invention. Complete inactivation, which can usually not be accomplished by existing methods such as antisense technology or RNAi technology, is useful for instance for the inactivation of genes controlling undesired side branches of metabolic pathways, for instance to increase the quality of bulk products such as starch, or to increase the production of specific secondary metabolites or to inhibit formation of unwanted metabolites. Also to inactivate genes controlling senescence in fruits and flowers or that determine flower pigments. Another embodiment of the present invention is the replacement of an inactive gene by an active gene. One example is the replacement of an defect p53 by an intact p53. Many tumors acquire a mutation in p53 during their development which renders it inactive and often correlates with a poor response to cancer therapy. By replacing the defect p53 by an intact p53, for example via gene therapy, conventional anti cancer therapy have better changes of succeeding. In yet another embodiment of the invention a therapeutic proteinaceous substance is integrated via a method of the invention. In this way a tumoricidal gene can be delivered to a pre-determined site present only in e.g. proliferating cells, or present only in tumor cells, e.g. to the site where a tumor antigen is expressed from. In yet another embodiment the invention provides a method to introduce a substance conferring resistance for an antibiotic substance to a cell according to a method of the invention. Also a method according to the invention is used to confer a desired property to an eukaryotic cell. In an preferred embodiment method a gene delivery vehicle is used to deliver a desired nucleic acid to a predetermined site. Gene delivery vehicles are well known in the art and include adenoviral vehicles, retroviral vehicles, non-viral vehicles such as liposomes, etc.. In this way, a for example, tumoricidal gene can be delivered to a predetermined site present only in e.g. proliferating cells, or present only in tumor cells, e.g. to the site where a tumor antigen is expressed from.

[0012] Furthermore a method according to the invention is used to improve gene targeting efficiency. Such a method is used to improve for example the gene targeting efficiency in plants. In plants transgenes integrate randomly into the genome by IR (Mayerhofer et al. 1991, Gheysen et al. 1991). The efficiency of integration by HR is very low, even when large stretches of homology between the transgene and the genomic target site are present (Offringa et al. 1990). Therefore, the efficiency of gene targeting using HR is very low in plants. The results that are disclosed herein show how to improve the gene targeting efficiency in plants. From the fact that T-DNA integration by IR is strongly reduced in KU70, RAD50, MRE11, XRS2, LIG4 and SIR4 deficient yeast strains and T-DNA integration by HR is not affected in such strains, we infer that also in plants, deficient for either of these genes, T-DNA integration by HR is more easily obtained. Recently, we have cloned a KU70 homologue of Arabidopsis thaliana (see figure 2, Bundock 2000, unpublished data). RAD50, MRE11 and LIG4 homologues have already been found in A.thaliana (GenBank accession numbers AF168748, AJ243822 and AF233527, respectively, see also figure 3, 4 and 5 (Hartung and Puchta 1999). Currently, screenings are being performed to find plants carrying a T-DNA inserted in AtMRE11, AtKU70 or AtLIG4. These knockout plants are used to test whether T-DNA integration by IR is reduced and integration by HR is unaffected, thereby facilitating the detection of T-DNA integration by HR.

[0013] The invention will be explained in more detail in the following description, which is not limiting the invention.

### **EXPERIMENTAL PART**

Yeast strains.

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[0014] The yeast strains that were used are listed in Table 1. Yeast mutants isogenic to the haploid YPH250 strain were constructed using the one-step disruption method (Rothstein 1991). A 1987 bp fragment from the *YKU70* locus was amplified by PCR using the primers hdf1p1 5'-GGGATTGCTTTAAGGTAG-3' and hdf1p2 5'-CAAATACCCTAC-CCTAC-3'. The PCR product was cloned into pT7Blue (Novagen) to obtain pT7Blue *YKU70*. A 1177 bp *EcoRV/Hind*III fragment from the *YKU70* ORF was replaced by a 2033 bp *Hind*III/*Smα*I *LEU2* containing fragment from pJJ283 (Jones and Prakash 1990), to form pT7Blue *YKU70::LEU2*. In order to obtain YKU70 disruptants Leu+ colonies were selected after transformation of YPH250 with a 2884 bp *Ndel/Smα*I fragment from pT7Blue *YKU70::LEU2*. The Expand™ High Fidelity System (Boehringer Mannheim) was used according to the supplied protocol to amplify a 3285 bp fragment from the *LIG4* locus with primers

dnl4p1 5'-CGTAAGATTCGCCGAGTATAG-3'

and

### dnl4p2 5'-CGTTTCAAATGGGACCACAGC-3'.

The PCR product was cloned into pGEMT (Promega), resulting in pGEMT*LIG4*. A 1326 bp *BamHI/XhoI* fragment from pJJ215 (Jones and Prakash 1990) containing the *HIS3* gene was inserted into the *BamHI* and *XhoI* sites of pIC20R, resulting in pIC20R*HIS3*. A 782 bp *Eco*RI fragment from the *LIG4* ORF was replaced with a 1367 bp EcoRI *HIS3* containing fragment from pIC20R*HIS3* to construct pGEMT*LIG4::HIS3*. In order to obtain LIG4 disruptants His+ colonies were selected after transformation of YPH250 with a 3854 bp *NcoI/NotI* fragment from pGEMT*LIG4::HIS3*. In order to obtain RAD50 disruptants YPH250 was transformed with a *EcoRI/BgIII* fragment from pNKY83 and Ura+ colonies were selected (Alani et al. 1989). A *rad50::hisG* strain was obtained by selecting Ura- colonies on selective medium containing 5-FOA. Similarly RAD51 disruptants were obtained were obtained after transformation of YPH250 with a *RAD51::LEU2 XbaI/PstI* fragment from pDG152 and selection of Leu+ colonies (SchiestI et al. 1994). The *TRP1* marker in pSM21 (Schild et al. 1983) was replaced with a *BgIII/XbaI LEU2* containing fragment from pJJ283 (Jones and Prakash, 1990). This resulted in pSM21*LEU2*. Leu+ RAD52 disruptant colonies were selected after transformation of YPH250 with the *RAD52::LEU2 BamHI* fragment from pSM21*LEU2*. Disruption constructs were transformed to YPH250 by the lithium acetate transformation method as described (Gietz et al. 1992). Disruption of *YKU70*, *LIG4*, *RAD50*, *RAD51* and *RAD52* was confirmed by PCR and Southern blot analysis.

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Table 1:

	Yeast strains		
	Strain	Genotype	Reference
25	YPH250	MATα, ura3-52, lys2-801, ade2-101, trp1-Δ1, his3-Δ200, leu2-Δ1	Sikorski and Hieter 1989
	YPH250rad51	MATα, ura3-52, lys2-801, ade2-101, trp1-Δ1, his3-Δ200, leu2-Δ1, rad51::LEU2	This study
	YPH250rad52	MATα, ura3-52, lys2-801, ade2-101, trp1-Δ1, his3-Δ200, leu2-Δ1, rad52::LEU2	This study
30	YPH250 <i>yku70</i>	MATα, ura3-52, lys2-801, ade2-101, trp1-Δ1, his3-Δ200, leu2-Δ1, yku70::LEU2	This study
	YPH250rad50	MATα, ura3-52, lys2-801, ade2-101, trp1-Δ1, his3-Δ200, leu2-Δ1, rad50::hisG	This study
35	YPH250 <i>lig4</i>	MATα, ura3-52, lys2-801, ade2-101, trp1-Δ1, his3-Δ200, leu2-Δ1, lig4::HIS3	This study
	JKM115	Δho, Δhml::ADE1, MATα, Δhmr::ADE1, ade1, leu2-3,112, lys5, trp1::	Moore and Haber 1996
40	JKM129	Δho, Δhml::ADE1, MATα, Δhmr::ADE1, ade1, leu2-3,112, lys5, trp1:: hisG, ura3-52, xrs2::LEU2	Moore and Haber 1996
	JKM138	Δho, Δhml::ADE1, MATα, Δhmr::ADE1, ade1, leu2-3,112, lys5, trp1:: hisG, ura3-52, mre11::hisG	Moore and Haber 1996
45	YSL204	Δho, HMLα, MATα, HMRα, ade1-100, leu2-3,112, lys5, trp1::hisG, ura3-52, hisG'-URA3-hisG', sir4::HIS3	Lee et al. 1999

Construction of binary vectors.

[0015] To construct pSDM8000 a 1513 bp *Pvull/Eco*RV fragment carrying the *KanMX* marker was obtained from pFA6a (Wach et al. 1994) and was ligated into the unique *Hpal* site of pSDM14 (Offringa 1992). pSDM8001 was made in three cloning steps. A 1476 bp *BamHl/Eco*RI fragment carrying the *KanMX* marker was obtained from pFA6a and ligated into *Bam*Hl and *Eco*RI digested pIC20H to form pIC20H*kan*MX. The KanMX marker was inserted between the *PDA1* flanks by replacement of a 2610 bp *Bgl*II fragment from pUC4E1α10 (Steensma et al. 1990) with a 1465 *Bgl*II fragment from pIC20H*kan*MX. A 3721 bp *Xhol/Kpn*I fragment from this construct was inserted into the *Xhol* and *Kpn*I sites of pSDM14. The binary vectors pSDM8000 and pSDM8001 were introduced into *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* LBA1119 by electroporation (den Dulk-Ras and Hooykaas 1995).

### Cocultivations / T-DNA transfer experiments.

[0016] Cocultivations were performed as described earlier with slight modifications (Bundock et al. 1995). *Agrobacterium* was grown overnight in LC medium. The mix *of Agrobacterium* and *S. cerevisiae* cells was incubated for 9 days at 20°C. G418 resistant *S.cerevisiae* strains were selected at 30°C on YPAD medium containing geneticin (200 µg/ml) (Life Technologies/Gibco BRL).

#### Vectorette PCR.

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[0017] Chromosomal DNA was isolated using Qiagen's Genomic Tips G/20 per manufacters protocol. 1-2 μg of Genomic DNA was digested with EcoRI, ClαI, Pstl or HindIII and run on a 1% TBE-gel. Non-radioactive Southern blotting was performed. The membrane was hybridized with a digoxigenine-labeled kanMX probe to determine the size of T-DNA/genomic DNA fragments (EcoRI and ClaI for RB containing fragments and Pstl and HindIII for LB containing fragments). The kanMX probe, a 792 bp internal fragment of the KanMX marker, was made by PCR using primers kanmxp1 5'-AGACTCACGTTTCGAGGCC-3' and kanmxp2 5'-TCACCGAGGCAGTTCCATAG-3' and a Non-Radioactive DNA Labeling and Detection kit (Boehringer Mannheim). The enzyme showing the smallest band on blot was used for Vectorette PCR, in order to amplify the smallest junction sequence of T-DNA and genomic DNA. Vectorette PCR was performed as described

(http://genomewww.stanford.edu/group/botlab/protocols/vectorette.html). The Expand™ High Fidelity System (Boehringer Mannheim) was used to amplify fragments larger than 2.5 kb, whereas sTaq DNA polymerase (SphaeroQ) was used for amplification of fragments smaller than 2.5 kb. Primer kanmxp3 5'-TCGCAGGTCTGCAGCGAGGAGC-3' and kanmxp4 5'-TCGCCTCGACATCATCTGCCCAG-3' were used to amplify RB/genomic DNA and LB/genomic DNA junction sequences, respectively.

### 25 T7 DNA Polymerase sequencing.

[0018] Vectorette PCR products were cloned in pGEMTEasy (Promega) and sequenced using the T7 polymerase sequencing kit (Pharmacia) according to manufacturers protocol. In order to obtain sequences flanking the RB and LB, primers kanmxp5 5'-TCACATCATGCCCCTGAGCTGC-3' and kanmxp4 were used, respectively.

### **RESULTS**

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### 1. Binary vectors for T-DNA transfer to yeast.

[0019] It was previously demonstrated that *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* is able to transfer its T-DNA not only to plants but also to another eukaryote, namely the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (Bundock et al. 1995). T-DNA carrying homology with the yeast genome was shown to become integrated by homologous recombination. T-DNA lacking any homology with the yeast genome was integrated randomly into the genome by IR like in plants (Bundock et al. 1995, Bundock and Hooykaas 1996). The T-DNA used in these experiments carried the *S. cerevisiae URA3* gene for selection of Ura+ colonies after T-DNA transfer to the haploid yeast strain RSY12(*URA3*Δ). However, in this system only yeast strains could be used in which the URA3 gene had been deleted to avoid homology between the incoming T-DNA and the *S. cerevisiae* genome.

[0020] We wanted to setup a system in which T-DNA transfer to any yeast strain could be studied. Therefore, two new binary vectors were constructed using the dominant marker *kanMX* (Wach et al. 1994), which confers resistance against geneticin (G418). The T-DNA of pSDM8000 carries only the *KanMX* marker. Since this *KanMX* marker consists of heterologous DNA, lacking any homology with the *S.cerevisiae* genome, we would expect this T-DNA to integrate by IR at a random position in the yeast genome. To be able to compare this with T-DNA integration by homologous recombination pSDM8001 was constructed. The T-DNA of pSDM8001 carries the *KanMX* marker flanked by sequences from the *S.cerevisiae PDA1* locus. The *PDA1* sequences have been shown to mediate the integration of T-DNA by HR at the *PDA1* locus on chromosome V (Bundock et al. 1995).

[0021] Cocultivations between *Agrobacterium* strains carrying pSDM8000 and pSDM8001, respectively, and the haploid yeast strains YPH250 and JKM115, respectively, were carried out as described in the experimental part. G418 resistant colonies were obtained at low frequencies for YPH250 (1.6 x 10<sup>-7</sup>) and JKM115 (1.2 x 10<sup>-5</sup>) after T-DNA transfer from pSDM8000 (Table 2). T-DNA transfer from pSDM8001 generated G418 resistant colonies at higher frequencies (2.4 x 10<sup>-5</sup> for YPH250 and 1.8 x 10<sup>-4</sup> JKM115, Table 2). The ratio of homologous recombination versus illegitimate recombination is determined by comparing the frequencies of G418 resistant colonies obtained from cocultivations using either pSDM8001 or pSDM8000. This showed that a T-DNA from pSDM8001 was 150-fold more likely to integrate than a T-DNA from pSDM8000 in YPH250 (Table 2). A similar difference was previously seen using T-DNAs

with the *URA3* marker (Bundock and Hooykaas 1996). In contrast, T-DNA from pSDM8001 was only 16-fold more likely to integrate than a T-DNA from pSDM8000 in JKM115. There was no significant difference in the frequency of T-DNA transfer to these two yeast strains as was determined by T-DNA transfer experiments in which a T-DNA, that carried the *KanMX* marker and the yeast 2 micron replicon, was employed. Therefore, the differences in the frequencies of T-DNA integration by HR and IR between the yeast strains YPH250 and JKM115, respectively, is most likely contributed to differences in the capacities of their HR and IR recombination machineries.

[0022] We confirmed by PCR that the T-DNA from pSDM8001 became integrated at the *PDA1* locus by homologous recombination (data not shown). In order to find out whether the T-DNA from pSDM8000 had integrated randomly by IR yeast target sites for integration were determined from 8 G418 resistant YPH250 colonies by Vectorette PCR (for detailed description see materials and methods). Chromosomal DNA was isolated and digested with a restriction enzyme that cuts within the T-DNA. A Vectorette was ligated to the digested DNA and a PCR was performed using a T-DNA specific and a Vectorette specific primer. The PCR product obtained was cloned into pGEMTEasy and sequenced using a T-DNA specific primer. The position of the T-DNA insertion was determined by basic BLAST search of the yeast genome (http://www-genome.stanford.edu/SGD). We were thus able to map the position of the T-DNA insertions of all 8 G418 resistant colonies analyzed. They were present at different positions spread out over the genome. Comparison of the T-DNA sequence and yeast target site sequences did not reveal any obvious homology. These data show that the T-DNA from pSDM8000 had integrated via an IR mechanism as expected.

[0023] The following characteristics have previously been observed for T-DNAs integrated by IR: a) the 3' end of the T-DNA is usually less conserved compared to the 5' end, b) microhomology is sometimes present between the T-DNA ends and the target site, c) integration is often accompanied by small deletions of the target site DNA (Matsumoto et al. 1990, Gheysen et al. 1991, Mayerhofer et al. 1991, Bundock and Hooykaas 1996). Similar characteristics were seen in the currently analyzed 8 T-DNA insertions. In 3 strains we observed microhomology of 2 - 6 bp between the LB and yeast target site (figure 1, WT.51 was taken as an example). In 5 strains deletions of 1 - 5 bp of yeast target site DNA was found and we observed deletions, varying from 1 - 112 bp, of the 3' end of the T-DNA in 7 out of 8 analyzed strains. In only 1 strain the 3' end appeared to be intact. The 5' end of the T-DNA was conserved in almost all strains. In only 2 strains we observed small deletions of 1 and 2 bp at the 5' end of the T-DNA.

[0024] Thus, we can conclude that the T-DNA from pSDM8000 had integrated via the same IR mechanism described before.

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Table 2:

Strain	Genotype	Freq. of IRa	Freq. of HR	Absolute IR/HR ratio <sup>b</sup>	Standardized IR HR ratio <sup>c</sup>
YPH250	WT	1.6 x 10 <sup>-7</sup>	2.4 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>	0.007	1
YPH250 rad51	rad51∆	1.4 x 10 <sup>-7</sup>	1.5 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	0.09	14
YPH250 rad52	rad52∆	3.8 x 10 <sup>-7</sup>	2.5 x 10 <sup>-6</sup>	0.15	23
YPH250 yku70	yku70∆	<3.2 x 10 <sup>-9</sup>	3.3 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>	<0.0001	<0.01
YPH250 rad50	rad50∆	8.0 x 10 <sup>-9</sup>	3.5 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>	0.0002	0.03
YPH250 <i>lig4</i>	lig4∆	3.7 x 10 <sup>-9</sup>	2.3 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>	0.0002	0.02
JKM115	WT	1.2 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>	1.8 x 10 <sup>-4</sup>	0.07	1
JKM129	xrs2∆	2.7 x 10 <sup>-7</sup>	5.1 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>	0.005	0.08
JKM138	mre11∆	2.9 x 10 <sup>-7</sup>	7.5 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>	0.004	0.06
YSL204	sir4∆	1.5 x 10 <sup>-7</sup>	1.8 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>	0.008	0.13

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Averages of 2 or more independant experiments are shown. Frequencies are depicted as the number of G418 resistant colonies devided by the output number of yeast cells (cells/ml).

### 2. Host-specific factors involved in random T-DNA integration.

[0025] The observation that the T-DNA from pSDM8000 integrates by IR into the yeast genome allowed us to use this system to study the effect of host factors on the process of integration. Many proteins involved in various forms of DNA recombination have been identified in yeast. In order to determine the roles of a representative set of these enzymes in T-DNA integration, we compared T-DNA transfer and integration in wildtype yeasts with that of strains

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> The frequency of T-DNA integration by IR (pSDM8000) devided by the frequency of T-DNA integration by HR (pSDM8001).

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm C}$  The ratio of IR/HR in the mutant strain devided by the ratio of IR/HR in the wildtype strain.

carrying disruptions of the genes encoding several recombination proteins. The *RAD51*, *RAD52*, *KU70*, *RAD50* and *LIG4* genes were deleted from YPH250 using the one step disruption method. Yeast strains carrying deletions in *MRE11*, *XRS2* and *SIR4* in the JKM115 background were kindly provided by Dr. J. Haber. The results of cocultivations with these yeast strains are shown in Table 2.

[0026] In rad51 and rad52 mutants, which are impaired in homologous recombination, the frequency of T-DNA integration by HR was 16- and 9-fold lower, respectively, than observed for the wildtype (Table 2). This showed that RAD51 and RAD52 play a role in T-DNA integration by homologous recombination. In the IR defective ku70, rad50, lig4, mre11, xrs2 and sir4 mutants the frequency of T-DNA integration by HR did not differ significantly from that observed for wildtype (Table 2). This showed that these genes do not play a role in T-DNA integration by homologous recombination.

[0027] The frequency of T-DNA integration by IR in a *rad51* mutant did not differ significantly from that observed for wildtype, whereas in a *rad52* mutant the frequency was about 2-fold higher (Table 2). This showed that *RAD51* and *RAD52* are not involved in T-DNA integration by IR. The product of the *RAD52* gene may compete with IR-enzymes for the T-DNA and thereby inhibits integration by IR to some extent. Strikingly, in *rad50*, *mre11*, *xrs2*, *lig4* and *sir4* mutants the frequency of T-DNA integration by IR was reduced dramatically: 20- to more than 40-fold (Table 2). T-DNA integration by IR seemed to be completely abolished in the *ku70* mutant. We did not obtain any G418 resistant colonies from several cocultivation experiments. This strongly suggests that KU70 plays an important role in random T-DNA integration in yeast.

[0028] Since T-DNA integration by HR is normal in these mutants, these results clearly show that the yeast genes KU70, RAD50, MRE11, XRS2, LIG4 and SIR4 are involved in T-DNA integration by illegitimate recombination.

### 3. Chromosomal distribution of integrated T-DNA copies in IR defective S.cerevisiae.

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[0029] From several cocultivation experiments with the *rad50*, *mre11*, *xrs2*, *lig4* and *sir4* mutants we obtained a small number of G418 resistant colonies. The T-DNA structure was determined for a number of these lines. To this end chromosomal DNA was isolated from these G418 resistant colonies and subjected to vectorette PCR to amplify junction sequences of genomic DNA and T-DNA. PCR products were cloned and sequenced. The yeast sequences linked to the T-DNA were used in a BLAST search at http://www-genome.stanford.edu/SGD to determine the T-DNA integration sites.

[0030] Strikingly, analysis of LB/genomic DNA junctions revealed that in 2 out of 3 rad50, 4 out of 6 mre11 and 2 xrs2 strains analyzed, T-DNAs had integrated in telomeres or subtelomeric regions (rad50k.1, rad50k.6, mre11k.8, mre11k.11, mre11k.14, mre11k.17, xrs2k.1 and xrs2k.17; Table 3 and figure 1). S. cerevisiae telomeres generally consist of one or more copies of the Y' element followed by telomerase-generated C(1-3)A/TG(1-3) repeats (Zakian 1996). In 2 rad50 strains, 2 mre11 strains and 1 xrs2 strain the LB was found to be fused to this typical telomerase-generated C(1-3)A/TG(1-3) repeat (rad50k.1, rad50k.6, mre11k.14, mre11k.17 and xrs2k.1; figure 1). Besides, we also found one T-DNA insertion in a Ty LTR element in the mre11 mutant and 2 insertions in the rDNA region, present in chromosome XII, in the mre11 and rad50 mutants (mre11k.5, mre11k.4 and rad50k.5, respectively; Table 3 and figure 1).

[0031] The 3' end of the T-DNA was truncated in all strains. Deletions of 3 - 11 bp of the 3'end of the T-DNA were observed (figure 1). Microhomology between the 3' end of the T-DNA and yeast target site was only found in 2 lines (5 bp in *mre11k.4* and 4 bp in *mre11k.14*; figure 1). For the T-DNA copies present at the yeast telomeres, the RB/genomic DNA junction sequences could not be obtained from these strains using vectorette PCR. This was only possible for the *rad50* and *mre11* strains carrying the T-DNA in the rDNA region on chromosome XII. In both strains the RB was intact and no homology between the 5' end of the T-DNA and the yeast target site was found (data not shown in figure 1).

[0032] Previously, target sites for T-DNA integration in the genome of *S.cerevisiae* strain RSY12 were determined (Bundock and Hooykaas 1996, Bundock 1999). In 4 out of 44 strains analyzed, T-DNA copies were integrated. in rDNA, Ty LTR elements (in 2 strains) and a subtelomeric located Y' element, respectively. In addition, we determined the position of T-DNA integration in ten *S.cerevisiae* YPH250 strains. We did not find any T-DNA insertions in rDNA, LTR elements or subtelomeric/telomeric regions amongst these ten. Pooling all insertions analyzed in wildtype (54), in 2 out of 54 strains analyzed (4%) insertions were found in a Ty LTR element and in two other strains in the rDNA repeat (2%) and a subtelomeric region (2%), respectively. In contrast, we report here that T-DNA in yeast strains mutated in *RAD50*, *MRE11* or *XRS2* T-DNA integrates preferentially in (sub)telomeric regions (8 out of 11 lines: ~73%) of *rad50*, *mre11* and *xrs2* mutants (table 3). From the remaining strains two T-DNAs were present in rDNA and one in a Ty LTR element, respectively. Apparently, the rDNA repeat is also a preferred integration site in these mutants (~18% vs. ~2% in the wildtype).

[0033] Telomeres consist of a large array of telomerase-generated C(1-3)A/TG(1-3) repeats (~350 bp). In the subtelomeric regions two common classes of Y' elements, 6.7 and 5.2 kb, can be found (in most strains chromosome I

does not contain Y') (Zakian and Blanton 1988), making the average size of these regions  $\sim$ 6,0 kb. Thus, the yeast genome contains (16 x 2 x 0.35) + (15 x 2 x 6,0) = 191 kb of subtelomeric/telomeric sequences. The yeast genome is 12,052 kb in size, which means that only 1.6% of the genome consists of subtelomeric/telomeric sequences. In accordance with this, we observed in only 2% of the wildtype strains T-DNA copies inserted in a subtelomeric region, which we would expect on the basis of random T-DNA integration. In contrast, in the rad50, mre11 and rad50 mutants 73% of the T-DNA insertions were found in the (sub)telomeric region.

[0034] Analysis of 7 lines revealed that in the *sir4* mutant T-DNA was integrated randomly into the yeast genome. So, although *SIR4* has an effect on the efficiency of T-DNA integration by IR, the pattern of T-DNA distribution in the transformants seems similar as in the wildtype strain. In the *sir4* mutant T-DNA integration by IR was characterized by truncation of the 3' end of the T-DNA, deletions at the target site and microhomology between the LB and the target site (data not shown), like this was observed for T-DNA integration by IR in the wildtype.

[0035] These results clearly show that in the *rad50*, *mre11* and *xrs2* mutants the T-DNA, if integrated at all, becomes preferentially inserted in telomeres or subtelomeric regions and that the genomic distribution of integrated T-DNAs is altered when compared to wildtype. However, disruption of *SIR4* did affect the efficiency of T-DNA integration by IR, but not the characteristics of this process.

Table 3:

genomic distribution of after T-DNA transfer from	T-DNA integrated by IR in <i>ra</i> om pSDM8000	id50, mre11 ai	nd xrs2 mutants in c	omparison with the wildtype
Yeast strain	(Sub)Telomeric region	LTR	rDNA	Elsewhere
rad50 mutant	2	0	1	0
mre11 mutant	4	1	1	О
xrs2 mutant	2	0	0	О
wildtype	1	2	1	50

### **DESCRIPTION OF FIGURES**

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[0036] Figure 1: Junction sequences of T-DNA and *S.cerevisae* genomic DNA. *S.cerevisiae* YPH250 (WT), *rad50*, *mre11* and *xrs2* strains were cocultivated with LBA1119(pSDM8000). G418 resistant colonies were obtained. Chromosomal DNA was isolated and subjected to Vectorette PCR to determine the sequence of genomic DNA flanking the T-DNA. Position of T-DNA integration was determined by basic BLAST search of the yeast genome at http://www.genome-stanford.edu/SGD. The Watson strand of genomic DNA that is fused to the LB or RB is shown in italics. Bold sequences represent sequence homology between the LB and target site. The filler DNA sequence is underlined and depicted in italics. The numbers above the LB sequences represents the number of bp deleted from the LB. Tel. = telomeric, Subtel. = subtelomeric and Int. = intergenic.

**[0037]** Figure 2: Alignment of KU70 homologues. Sc = Saccharomyces cerevisiae, Hs = Homo sapiens and At = Arabidopsis thaliana. Perfect identity is depicted as black boxes, homology is depicted as grey boxes and dashes were used to optimise alignment.

[0038] Figure 3: Alignment of LIG4 homologues. Sc = Saccharomyces cerevisiae, Hs = Homo sapiens and At = Arabidopsis thaliana. Perfect identity is depicted as black boxes, homology is depicted as grey boxes and dashes were used to optimise alignment.

**[0039]** Figure 4: Alignment of MRE11 homologues. Sc = Saccharomyces cerevisiae, Hs = Homo sapiens and At = Arabidopsis thaliana. Perfect identity is depicted as black boxes, homology is depicted as grey boxes and dashes were used to optimise alignment.

**[0040]** Figure 5: Alignment of RAD50 homologues. Sc = Saccharomyces cerevisiae, Hs = Homo sapiens and At = Arabidopsis thaliana. Perfect identity is depicted as black boxes, homology is depicted as grey boxes and dashes were used to optimise alignment.

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35	Gly	Glu	Leu	Ile 100	Ala	Val	Gln	Arg	Ser 105	Met	Val	Cys	Thr	Gln 110	Lys	Ser
	Lys	Lys	Thr 115	Glu	Phe	Lys	Thr	Leu 120	Glu	Gly	Val	Ile	Thr 125	Arg	Thr	Lys
40	His	Gly 130	Glu	Lys	Val	Ser	Leu 135	Ser	Ser	Lys	Cys	Ala 140	Glu	Ile	Asp	Arg <sub>.</sub>
	Glu 145	Met	Ile	Ser	Ser	Leu 150	Gly	Val	Ser	Lys	Ala 155	Val	Leu	Asn	Asn	Val 160
45	Ile	Phe	Cys	His	Gln 165	Glu	Asp	Ser	Asn	Trp 170	Pro	Leu	Ser	Glu	Gly 175	Lys
	Ala	Leu	Lys	Gln 180	Lys	Phe	Asp	Glu	Ile 185	Phe	Ser	Ala	Thr	Arg 190	Tyr	Ile
	Lys	Ala	Leu 195	Glu	Thr	Leu	Arg	Gln 200	Val	Arg	Gln	Thr	Gln 205	Gly	Gln	Lys
50	Val	Glu 210	Glu	Tyr	Gln	Met	Glu 215	Leu	Lys	Tyr	Leu	Lys 220	Gln	Tyr	Lys	Glu
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55	Thr	Ser	Ser	Lys	Glu	Ile	Val	Lys	Ser	Tyr	Glu	Asn	Glu	Leu	Asp	Pro

					245	•				250	)				255	5
5	Leu	Lys	Asn	Arg 260		Lys	Glu	Ile	Glu 265		Asn	Leu	Ser	Lys 270		Met
	Lys	Leu	Asp 275		Glu	Ile	Lys	Ala 280		Asp	Ser	Arg	Lys 285		Glr	Met
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	His	Ile 370	Arg	Ala	Arg	Asp	Ser 375	Leu	Ile	Gln	Ser	Leu 380	Ala	Thr	Gln	Leu
25	Glu 385	Leu	Asp	Gly	Phe	Glu 390	Arg	Gly	Pro	Phe	Ser 395	Glu	Arg	Gln	Ile	Lys 400
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30	Ala	Asn	Gln	Leu 420	Met	Asn	Asp	Phe	Ala 425	Glu	Lys	Glu	Thr	Leu 430	Lys	Gln
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35	Ile	Glu 450	Leu	Lys	Ser	Glu	Ile 455	Leu	Ser	Lys	Lys	Gln 460	Asn	Glu	Leu	Lys
	Asn 465	Val	Lys	Tyr	Glu	Leu 470	Gln	Gln	Leu	Glu	Gly 475	Ser	Ser	Asp	Arg	11e 480
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	Ala	Glu	Lys	Asn 500	Ser	Asn	Val	Glu		Leu				Val 510	Ile	Ser
45	Leu	Gln	Asn 515	Glu	Lys	Ala	Asp	Leu 520	Asp	Arg	Thr	Leu	Arg 525	Lys	Leu	Asp
	Gln	Glu 530	Met	Glu	Gln	Leu	Asn 535	His	His •	Thr	Thr	Thr 540	Arg	Thr	Gln	Met
50	Glu 545	Met	Leu	Thr	Lys	Asp 550	Lys	Ala	Asp	Lys	Asp 555	Glu	Gln	Ile	Arg	<b>Lys</b> 560
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			595	i				600	)				605	5		
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	Asp	Ala	Lys 915	Glu	Gln	Val	Ser	Pro 920	Leu	Glu	Thr	Thr	Leu 925	Glu	Lys	Phe
55		930					935					940			Asn	_
55	Ile	Ala	Gln	Asp	Lys	Leu	Asn	Asp	Ile	Lys	Glu	Lys	Val	Lys	Asn	Ile

	94	5			950					955					960
5	Hi	s Gly	Tyr Me	t Lys 965	Asp	Ile	Glu	Asn	His 970	Ile	Gln	Asp	Gly	Lys 975	
	As	p Tyr	Met Ly 98		Lys	Glu	Thr	Glu 985	Leu	Asn	Lys	Val	Ile 990	Ala	Gln
10	Le	u Ser	Glu Cy: 995	s Glu	Lys		Lys 1000	Glu	Lys	Ile		Glu 1005	Asp	Met	Arg
	Le	Met 1010	Arg Gl	n Asp		Asp 1015	Thr	Gln	Lys		Gln 1020	Glu	Arg	Trp	Leu
15	Gl: 10:		Asn Le		Leu 1030	Arg	Lys	Arg		Glu 1035	Glu	Leu	Lys		Val 1040
			Glu Gly	1045				1	1050				1	1055	
20			Met Lys 1060	)			1	.065				1	.070	_	
		1	Arg Asr 075			1	.080				1	085	_	_	
25	Glı	1090	Ile Ile	His		Lys .095	Lys	Glu	Leu		Glu 100	Pro	Gln	Phe	Arg
	Asr 110		Glu Glu		Tyr 1110	Arg	Glu	Met		Ile 115	Val	Met	Arg		Thr 120
30	G1 t	Leu	Val Asn	Lys 1125	Asp	Leu	Asp		Tyr 130	Tyr	Lys	Thr		Asp 135	Gln
30	Ala	Ile	Met Lys 1140		His	Ser		Lys 145	Met	Glu	Glu		Asn 150	Lys	Ile
35	Ile		Asp Leu 155	Trp	Arg		Thr 160	Tyr	Arg	Gly		Asp 165	Ile	Glu	Tyr
	Ile	Glu : 1170	Ile Arg	Ser		Ala 175	Asp	Glu	Asn		Ser 180	Ala	Ser	Asp	Lys
40	Arg 118		Asn Tyr		Tyr 190	Arg	Val	Val		Leu 195	Lys	Gly	Asp		Ala 200
	Leu	Asp t	Met Arg	Gly 1205	Arg	Cys	Ser .		Gly 210	Gln	Lys	Val	_	Ala 215	Ser
45	Leu	Ile :	Ile Arg 1220		Ala	Leu .		Glu 225	Thr	Phe	Cys		Asn 230	Cys	Gly
		12	Ala Leu 235			1	240				1	245			
50	Glu	Ser 1 1250	Leu Ala	His		Leu 255	Val (	Glu	Ile		Lys 260	Ser .	Arg	Ser	Gln
30	Gln 126	Arg <i>I</i> 5	Asn Phe		Leu : 270	Leu '	Val :	Ile		His . 275	Asp	Glu .	Asp		Val 280
55	Glu	Leu I	Leu Gly	Arg 1285	Ser	Glu '	Tyr '		Glu : 290	Lys	Phe	Tyr .		11e 295	Lys
55	Lys	Asn 1	lle Asp	Gln	Cys :	Ser (	Glu :	Ile '	Val :	Lys (	Cys	Ser	Val	Ser	Ser

5	Leu	Gly	Phe 1315	Asn	Val	His										
10	<21 <21	0> 3 1> 1 2> P 3> A	292 RT	dops:	is tl	hali	ana									
15	<22:	1> S: 2> (: 3> /:	l) note			hom	ologi	ıe"								
		0> 3 Ser		Val	Asp 5	Lys	Met	Leu	Ile	Lys 10	Gly	Ile	Arg	Ser	Phe 15	Asp
20	Pro	Glu	Asn	Lys 20	Asn	Val	Val	Thr	Phe 25	Phe	Arg	Pro	Leu	Thr 30	Leu	Ile
	Val	Gly	Ala 35	Asn	Gly	Ala	Gly	Lys 40	Thr	Thr	Ile	Ile	Glu 45	Cys	Leu	Lys
25	Val	Ser 50	Суѕ	Thr	Gly	Glu	Leu 55	Pro	Pro	Asn	Ala	Arg 60	Ser	Gly	His	Ser
	Phe 65	Ile	His	Asp	Pro	Lys 70	Val	Ala	Gly	Glu	Thr 75	Glu	Thr	Lys	Ala	Gln 80
30	Ile	Lys	Leu	Arg	Phe 85	Lys	Thr	Ala	Ala	Gly 90	Lys	Asp	Val	Val	Cys 95	Ile
	Arg	Ser	Phe	Gln 100	Leu	Thr	Gln	Lys	Ala 105	Ser	Lys	Met	<b>Gl</b> u	Tyr 110	Lys	Ala
35	Ile	Glu	Ser 115	Val	Leu	Gln	Thr	Ile 120	Asn	Pro	His	Thr	Gly 125	Glu	Lys	Val
	Cys	Leu 130	Ser	Tyr	Arg	Cys	Ala 135	Asp	Met	Asp	Arg	Glu 140	Ile	Pro	Ala	Leu
40	Met 145	Gly	Val	Ser	Lys	Ala 150	Ile	Leu	Glu	Asn	Val 155	Ile	Phe	Val	His	Gln 160
	Asp	Glu	Ser	Asn	Trp 165	Pro	Leu	Gln	Asp	Pro 170	Ser	Thr	Leu	Lys	Lys 175	Lys
45	Phe	Asp	Asp	Ile 180	Phe	Ser	Ala	Thr	Arg 185	Tyr	Thr	Lys	Ala	Leu 190	Glu	Val
	Ile	Lys	Lys 195	Leu	His	Lys	Asp	Gln 200	Ala	Gln	Glu	Ile	Lys 205	Thr	Phe	Lys
50	Leu	Lys 210	Leu	Glu	Asn	Leu	Gln 215	Thr	Leu	Lys	Asp	Ala 220	Ala	Tyr	Lys	Leu
	Arg 225	Glu	Ser	Ile	Ala	Gln 230	Asp	Gln	Glu	Arg	Thr 235	Glu	Ser	Ser	Lys	Val 240
55	Gln	Met	Leu	Glu	Leu 245	Glu	Thr	Ser	Val	Gln 250	Lys	Val	Asp	Ala	Glu 255	Val

	His	a Asr	Lys	Glu 260		: Met	Lev	Lys	Asp 265		Arg	Lys	Leu	Gln 270	_	Gln
5 .	Val	. Ser	11e 275	Lys	Thr	Ala	Glu	Arg 280		Thr	Leu	Phe	Lys 285		Gln	Gln
	Arg	Gln 290	Tyr	Ala	Ala	Leu	Pro 295		Glu	Asn	Glu	Asp 300		Ile	Glu	Glu
10	Leu 305	Lys	Glu	Trp	Lys	Ser 310		Phe	Glu	Glu	Arg 315	Leu	Ala	Leu	Leu	Gly 320
	Thr	Lys	Ile	Arg	Lys 325		Glu	Arg	Glu	Met 330	Val	Asp	Thr	Glu	Thr 335	Thr
15	Ile	Ser	Ser	Leu 340	His	Asn	Ala	Lys	Thr 345	Asn	Tyr	Met	Leu	Glu 350	Ile	Ser
	Lys	Leu	Gln 355	Thr	Glu	Ala	Glu	Ala 360	His	Met	Leu	Leu	Lys 365	Asn	Glu	Arg
20	Asp	Ser 370	Thr	Ile	Gln	Asn	Ile 375	Phe	Phe	His	Tyr	Asn 380	Leu	Gly	Asn	Val
	Pro 385	Ser	Thr	Pro	Phe	Ser 390	Thr	Glu	Val	Val	Leu 395	Asn	Leu	Thr	Asn	Arg 400
25	Ile	Lys	Ser	Arg	Leu 405	Gly	Glu	Leu	Glu	Met 410	Asp	Leu	Leu	Asp	Lys 415	Lys
	Lys	Ser	Asn	Glu 420	Thr	Ala	Leu	Ser	Thr 425	Ala	Trp	Asp	Cys	Tyr 430	Met	Asp
30	Ala	Asn	Asp 435	Arg	Trp	Lys	Ser	Ile 440	Glu	Ala	Gln	Lys	Arg 445	Ala	Lys	Asp
	Glu	11e 450	Lys	Met	Gly	Ile	Ser 455	Lys	Arg	Ile	Glu	Glu 460	Lys	Glu	Ile	Glu
35	Arg 465	Asp	Ser	Phe	Glu	Phe 470	Glu	Ile	Ser	Thr	Val 475	Asp	Val	Lys	Gln	Thr 480
	Asp	Glu	Arg	Glu	Lys 485	Gln	Val	Gln	Val	Glu 490	Leu	Glu	Arg		Thr 495	Lys
40	Gln	Asn	Ser	Glu 500	Arg	Gly	Phe	Glu	Ser 505	Lys	Ile	Glu	Gln	Lys 510	Gln	His
	Glu	Ile	Tyr 515	Ser	Leu	Glu	His	Lys 520	Ile	Lys	Thr	Leu	Asn 525	Arg	Glu	Arg
45	Asp	Val 530	Met	Ala	Gly	Asp	Ala 535	Glu	Asp	Arg	Leu	Leu 540	Thr	Arg	Ile	Asp
	Glu 545	Cys	Lys	Asp	Arg	Ile 550	Arg	Gly	Val	Leu	Lys 555	Gly	Arg	Leu	Pro	Pro 560
50	Glu	Lys	Asp		Lys 565	Arg	Glu	Ile	Val	Gln 570	Ala	Leu	Arg		Ile 575	Glu
			Tyr	580					585					590		
55	Val	Asn	Met 595	Leu	Gln	Met	Lys	Ile 600	Gln	Glu	Val	Asn	Asn 605	Ser	Leu	Phe

	Lys	His 610	Asn	Lys	Asp	Thr	Glu 615	ı Ser	Arç	, Lys	Arç	Tyr 620		e Glu	Ser	Lys
5	Leu 625	Gln	Ala	Leu	Lys	Gln 630	Glu	Ser	Val	. Thr	11e 635		Ala	Туг	Pro	Lys 640
	Leu	Leu	Glu	Ser	Ala 645	Lys	Asp	Lys	Arg	Asp 650		Arg	Lys	Arg	Glu 655	Tyr
10	Asn	Met	Ala	Asn 660	Gly	Met	Arg	Gln	Met 665	Phe	Glu	Pro	Phe	Glu 670		Arg
	Ala	Arg	Gln 675	Glu	His	Ser	Cys	Pro 680		Cys	Glu	Arg	Ser 685		Thr	Ala
15	Asp	Glu 690	Glu	Ala	Ser	Phe	Ile 695	Lys	Lys	Gln	Arg	Val 700		Ala	Ser	Ser
	Thr 705	Gly	Glu	His	Leu	Lys 710	Ala	Leu	Ala	Val	Glu 715	Ser	Ser	Asn	Ala	Asp 720
20	Ser	Val	Phe	Gln	Gln 725	Leu	Asp	Lys	Leu	Arg 730	Ala	Val	Phe	Glu	Glu 735	Tyr
	Ser	Lys	Leu	Thr 740	Thr	Glu	Ile	Ile	Pro 745	Leu	Ala	Glu	Lys	Thr 750	Leu	Gln
25	Glu	His	Thr 755	Glu	Glu	Leu	Gly	Gln 760	Lys	Ser	Glu	Ala	Leu 765	Asp	Asp	Val
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30	Leu 785	Val	Gln	Pro	Leu	Glu 790	Asn	Ala	Asp	Arg	Ile 795	Phe	Gln	Glu	Ile	Val 800
	Ser	Tyr	Gln	Lys	Gln 805	Ile	Glu	Asp	Leu	Glu 810	Tyr	Lys	Leu	Asp	Phe 815	Arg
35	Gly	Leu	Gly	Val 820	Lys	Thr	Met	Glu	Glu 825	Ile	Gln	Ser	Glu	Leu 830	Ser	Ser
	Leu	Gln	Ser 835	Ser	Lys	Asp	Lys	Leu 840	His	Gly	Glu	Leu	Glu 845	Lys	Leu	Arg
40	Asp	Asp 850	Gln	Ile	Tyr	Met	Glu 8 <b>5</b> 5	Arg	Asp	Ile	Ser	Cys 860	Leu	Gln	Ala	Arg
	Trp 865	His	Ala	Val	Arg	Glu 870	Glu	Lys	Ala	Lys	Ala 875	Ala	Asn	Leu	Leu	Arg 880
45	Asp				885					890					895	
	Ser			900					905					910		
50	Leu	Ser	Lys 915	Glu	Lys	Glu	Gln	Leu 920	Leu	Ser	Asp	Tyr	Asn 925	Asp	Met	Lys
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55	Tyr 945	Gln	Gln	Glu	Val	Glu 950	Ala	Leu	Leu		Ala 955	Ser	Tyr	Lys	Ile	Asn 960

	Asp Cys Phe Thr Arg Tyr His Asp Leu Lys Lys Gly Glu Arg Leu Asp 965 970 975
5	Asp Ile Gln Glu Lys Gln Arg Leu Ser Asp Ser Gln Leu Gln Ser Cys 980 985 990
	Glu Ala Arg Lys Asn Glu Leu Ala Gly Glu Leu Asn Arg Asn Lys Asp 995 1000 1005
10	Leu Met Arg Asn Gln Asp Gln Leu Arg Arg Asn Ile Glu Asp Asn Leu 1010 1015 1020
·	Asn Tyr Arg Thr Thr Lys Ala Lys Val Glu Glu Leu Thr Arg Glu Ile 1025 1030 1035 1040
15	Glu Ser Leu Glu Glu Gln Ile Leu Asn Ile Gly Gly Ile Ala Ala Val 1045 1050 1055
20	Glu Ala Glu Ile Val Lys Ile Leu Arg Glu Arg Glu Arg Leu Leu Ser 1060 1065 1070
20	Glu Leu Asn Arg Cys Arg Gly Thr Val Ser Val Tyr Glu Ser Ser Ile 1075 1080 1085
25	Ser Lys Asn Arg Val Glu Leu Lys Gln Ala Gln Tyr Lys Asp Ile Asp 1090 1095 1100
	Lys Arg His Phe Asp Gln Leu Ile Gln Leu Lys Thr Thr Glu Met Ala 1105 1110 1115 1120
30	Asn Lys Asp Leu Asp Arg Tyr Tyr Asn Ala Leu Asp Lys Ala Leu Met 1125 1130 1135
	Arg Phe His Thr Met Lys Met Glu Glu Ile Asn Lys Ile Ile Arg Glu 1140 1145 1150
35	Leu Trp Gln Gln Thr Tyr Arg Gly Gln Asp Met Asp Tyr Ile Arg Ile 1155 1160 1165
	His Ser Asp Ser Glu Gly Ala Gly Thr Arg Ser Tyr Ser Tyr Lys Val 1170 1175 1180
40	Leu Met Gln Thr Gly Asp Thr Glu Leu Glu Met Arg Gly Arg Cys Ser 1185 1190 1195 1200
	Ala Gly Gln Lys Val Leu Ala Ser Leu Ile Ile Arg Leu Ala Leu Ala 1205 1210 1215
45	Glu Thr Phe Cys Leu Asn Cys Gly Ile Leu Ala Leu Asp Glu Pro Thr 1220 1225 1230
·	Thr Asn Leu Asp Gly Pro Asn Ser Glu Ser Leu Ala Gly Ala Leu Leu 1235 1240 1245
50	Arg Ile Met Glu Asp Arg Lys Gly Gln Glu Asn Phe Gln Leu Ile Val 1250 1260
	Ile Thr His Asp Glu Arg Phe Ala Gln Met Ile Gly Gln Arg Gln His 1265 1270 1275 1280
55	Ala Glu Lys Tyr Tyr Arg Val Ala Lys Asp Asp Met 1285 1290

#### Claims

- 1. A method to direct integration of a nucleic acid of interest to a pre-determined site, whereby said nucleic acid has homology at or around the said pre-determined site, in an eukaryote with a preference for non-homologous recombination, comprising steering an integration pathway towards homologous recombination.
- 2. A method to direct nucleic acid integration according to claim 1, comprising providing a mutant of a component involved in non-homologous recombination.
- 10 3. A method to direct nucleic acid integration according to claim 1 or 2, comprising inhibiting a component involved in non-homologous recombination.
  - 4. A method according to claim 2 or 3 wherein said component involved in non-homologous recombination comprises ku70, rad50, mre11, xrs2, lig4 or sir4.

5. A method to direct integration of a nucleic acid of interest to a subtelomeric and/or telomeric region in an eukaryote with a preference for non-homologous recombination by providing a mutant of a component involved in non-homologous recombination.

- 20 6. A method to direct integration of a nucleic acid of interest to a subtelomeric and/or telomeric region in an eukaryote with a preference for non-homologous recombination, comprising inhibiting a component involved in non-homologous recombination
- 7. A method to direct integration according to claim 5 or 6 wherein said component involved in non-homologous recombination comprises rad50, mre11 or xrs2.
  - 8. A method according to anyone of claims 1 to 7 wherein said eukaryote comprises yeast.
- 9. A method according to anyone of claims 1-8 comprising transiently inhibiting integration via non-homologous recombination.
  - 10. A method according claim 9 wherein said transiently inhibiting is provided by an Agrobacterium Vir-fusion protein capable of inhibiting a component involved in non-homologous recombination.
- 35 11. A method to direct nucleic acid integration according to claim 10 wherein said Agrobacterium Vir fusion protein comprises VirF or VirE2.
  - 12. A method according to claim 10 or 11 wherein said component involved in non-homologous recombination comprises ku70, rad50, mre11, xrs2, lig4 or sir4.
  - 13. A method according to anyone of the aforegoing claims wherein said nucleic acid of interest comprises an inactive gene to replace an active gene.
- 14. A method according to anyone of claims 1-12, wherein said nucleic acid of interest comprises an active gene to 45 replace an inactive gene.
  - 15. A method according to anyone of claims 1-12, wherein said nucleic acid of interest encodes a therapeutic proteinaceous substance.
- 50 16. A method according to anyone of claims 1-12, wherein said nucleic acid of interest encodes a substance conferring resistance for an antibiotic substance to a cell.
  - 17. A method according to anyone of claims 1-12, wherein said nucleic acid of interest confers a desired property to said eukaryotic cell.
  - 18. A method according to anyone of the aforegoing claims wherein said nucleic acid of interest is part of a gene delivery vehicle.

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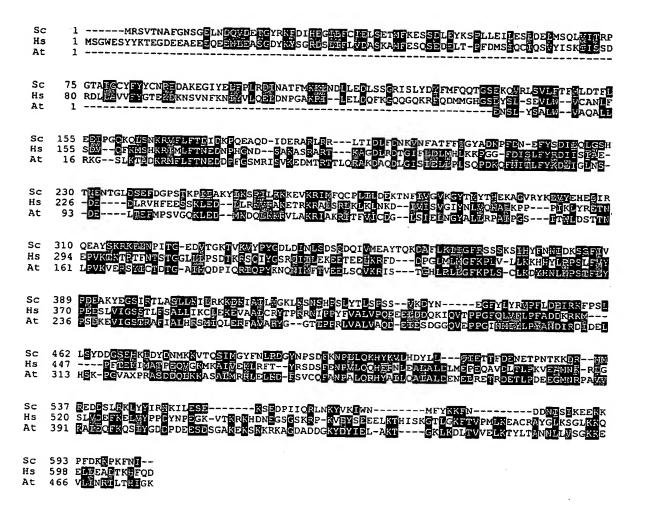
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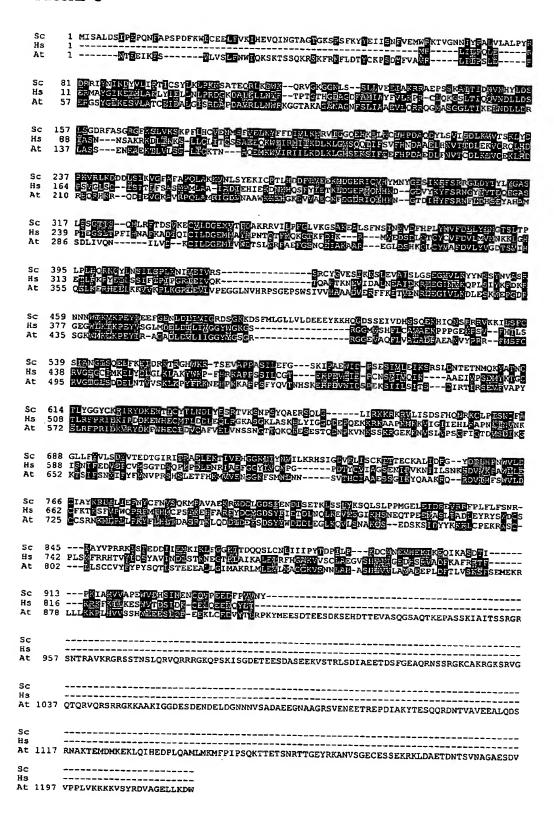
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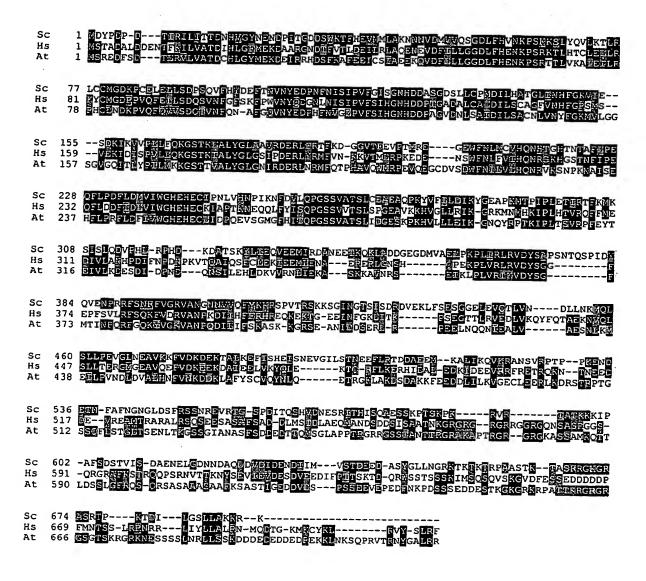
19. Use of a method according to anyone of claims 1 to 18 for improvement of gene targeting efficiency.

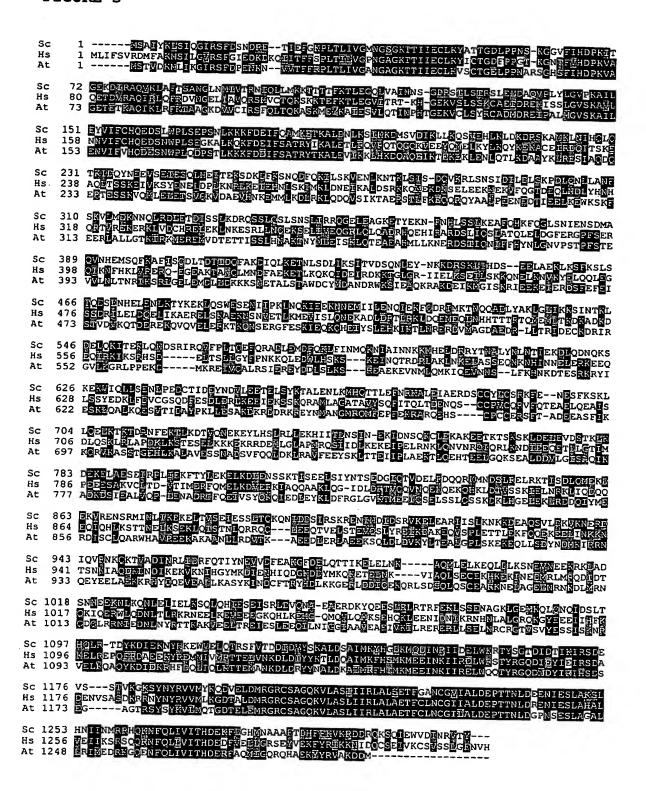
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Strain	LB' T-DNA RB' CAGGATATATTCAATTGTAAAT-CTCCGA-GG	Chromosome, coordinate and location
WT.51	-4 5' ATTGTATTATATTCAATTGTAAAT-CTCCGA-GGTA 3'	XIV, 185311 (1 bp of target site DNA deleted), int. region
rad50k.1	57GTGGGTGTGATATTCAATTGTAAAT-CTCCGA-GG 3'	XV, 1091277, tel. region
rad50k.5	5' GGGGGCATCAGTATTCAATTGTAAAT-CTCCGA-GG 3'	XII, 465986, rDNA region
rad50k.6	5' GAGGTAGATGTGAGAGAGTGTGTGTGGGTGTGAAGTCGA 3'	XV, 1091276, tel. region
mre11k.4	-3 5'TCTGGTAGATATATTCAATTGTAAAT-CTCCGA-GG 3'	XII, 459692/468829, rDNA region
mre11k.5	-8 5' CACATATTTCTCATTCAATTGTAAAT-CTCCGA-GG 3'	VII/X/XIII, 536090 OR 541678/ 472487 OR 483659/196667, LTR
mre11k.8	-11 5' <i>CGACTACTTTATA<u>TCC</u>A</i> ATTGTAAAT-CTCCGA-GG 3'	XIV, 6060, subtel. region
mre11k.11	5'GAAGAACCCATTATTCAATTGTAAAT-CTCCGA-GG 3'	XIV, 4866, subtel. region
mre11k.14	5' TGGGTGTGGGTTATTCAATTGTAAAT-CTCCGA-GG 3'	VIII, 562588, tel. region
mre11k.17	-9 5' TGGGTGTGGTGTTCAATTGTAAAT-CTCCGA-GG 3'	XII, 5727, subtel. region
	10	
xrs2k.I	5' TGTGTGGGTGTGGGTCAATTGTAAAT-CTCCGA-GG 3'	IX/X, 69/52, tel. region
xrs2k.17	-1 5'CGTCAAGGATATATTCAATTGTAAAT-CTCCGA-GG 3'	XII, 1071797, subtel region











Application Number EP 00 20 4693

		ERED TO BE RELEVANT	<del></del>	
Category	Citation of document with i of relevant pass	ndication, where appropriate, sages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.CI.7)
X	Ku-dependent non-ho	CULAR BIOLOGY AL, 3-03-16), pages 161	1,2,4,5, 8,15, 17-19	C12N15/90 C12N15/82 C12N15/81
X	homologous recombin NUCLEIC ACIDS RESEA	e, is involved in ination, but not in ation." RCH, 96, pages 2067-2072,	1,2,4,8, 15-19	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
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X	protein complex fac recombination-based repair in Saccharom MOLECULAR AND CELLU	LAR BIOLOGY, vember 1999 (1999-11), 002170163	1,2,4,5, 8,15, 17-19	
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	THE HAGUE	21 June 2001	0de1	rwald, H
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		ERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document with Ir of relevant pass	ndication, where appropriate, ages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.CI.7)
X	OF RAD50, RAD51, RA ON ILLEGITIMATE REC SACCHAROMYCES CEREV GENETICS, GENETICS S AUSTIN, TX,US,	ISIAE" OCIETY OF AMERICA, 1996 (1996-02), pages · 3	1,2,4,5, 8,15-19	
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X	TSUKAMOTO Y ET AL: participate in DNA recombination in Sa cerevisiae." NATURE (LONDON), vol. 388, no. 6645, XP002170165 ISSN: 0028-0836 * the whole documen	repair and ccharomyces 1997, pages 900-903,	1,2,4,8, 15,17-19	
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	Place of search	Date of completion of the search		Examiner
	THE HAGUE	21 June 2001	Ode	rwald, H
X : parti Y : parti docu A : tech O : non	ATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS icularly relevant if taken alone icularly relevant if combined with anot iment of the same category nological background -written disclosure mediate document	L.: document cited for	cument, but publis le In the application or other reasons	shed on, or

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